

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9091

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6388

FOR BELL (ARA/PAN) FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: ROSENBAUM CASE

REF: STATE 223132

1. IN COURSE OF LONG TALK WITH MINISTER BOYD TODAY, I RAISED WITH HIM THE DR. ROSENBAUM CASE, NOTING THAT HE DOUBTLESS HAD RECEIVED A FULL REPORT ON YOUR EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ-REVILLA IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL). I CITED THE HEAVY FINANCIAL BURDEN BEING SUFFERED BY THE FAMILY AS THE RESULT OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT. I NOTED THAT THE PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL INVOLVED WAS TOTALLY AT FAULT AND THAT HE HAD CARRIED NO INSURANCE. I SAID THAT, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS AND TECHNICAL IMPEDIMENTS, IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE ONLY JUST AND HUMANE THING WOULD BE FOR PANAMA TO MAKE SOME KIND OF GENEROUS EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO THE FAMILY TO HELP EASE THE TERRIBLE FINANCIAL STRAIN IMPOSED BY THIS EVENT. I NOTED, TOO, THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE AWARE OF THE CASE AND THAT A NOBLE GESTURE BY PANAM WOULD HELP MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE AND FAIR GOVERNMENT. THAT WOULD HELP WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR CONGRESS TO CONSIDER A NEW TREATY.

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2. BOYD REACTED SYMPATHETICALLY. HE SEEMED TRULY APPALLED TO HEAR THE EXTENT OF THE COSTS INVOLVED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT PANAMA IS IN THE MIDST OF A GRAVE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND HE DID NOT KNOW OFF HAND WHERE ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY WOULD COME FROM. NONETHELESS, HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM CAREFULLY AND DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO MAKE SOME KIND OF PAYMENT TO THE FAMILY.
JORDEN

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NNN

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